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SUBJECT Soviet Activity in the Porkkala Area

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

- 25X1 1. With the coming of autumn, Soviet activity in Porkkala has not abated to
any appreciable extent; naval battle maneuvers have decreased somewhat,
25X1 but infantry maneuvers are perhaps more lively. Similar maneuvers have
25X1 been observed in different areas over a period of several days. Participating in the exercises, besides the infantry, are artillery, tanks, and occasionally a plane or two.
2. It has been remarked that fortification on a large scale has been in progress throughout the past summer in certain sectors, the activity being particularly out-standing in two areas, namely, the areas adjacent to the highway and the railroad which lead to Porkkala from Helsinki. Fortifications one kilometer square have been erected in both these regions. It has been ascertained that every night this past summer scores of autos have transported construction material to these areas. Moreover, material, such as heavy iron products to be used in fortification work, has been shipped to the Masala area nightly by train. It is certain that this material does not enter Porkkala by an overland route, but is brought in by sea, and that it is transported from the harbor by train to Masala, where it is unloaded under cover of darkness. This confirms the fact that the Soviets have completed a railroad to the coast.
3. Since sea transport is used to ship material, the obvious conclusion is that a harbor has been completed, although its location has not been definitely ascertained; most likely it is either in Obbnäs or somewhere on the Pikkala coast. Numerous cargo vessels, some of them judged to be 10,000 ton craft, have been observed proceeding to this area during the past summer. Train smoke has been detected as the train nears Obbnäs point, but it has not yet been possible to determine where the railroad terminates.

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4. This past summer the Soviets have installed new channel markers and lights; the lights do not conform to international specifications. When a Soviet vessel is approaching the harbor, red signal lights appear in at least three towers, namely, in two towers on Obbnäs and in the Forsö tower as well.
5. Until the past summer the Soviets, in some measure, have refrained from extending their heavier fortified installations to point openly to the Finnish side of the border. Now, however, this "diffidence" has been abandoned, and in several places concrete installations have appeared in open fields, and the uncamouflaged embrasures are directed to roads on the Finnish side of the border. While construction is underway, the activity is always concealed behind a board fence, and the fence is not removed until the entire installation is complete and well camouflaged. Roads and drainage ditches to such areas of activity are carefully camouflaged with sod, etc.
6. Railroad traffic has declined noticeably: in August 1952 it was slightly lower than for the corresponding month in 1951; 330 covered freight cars and only 106 open cars came to the area. This decrease is directly traceable to the fact that timber shipments from Finland have dropped sharply. At present the shipments from Finland consist mainly of firewood.
7. Artillery firing has decreased somewhat, but daily firing is still heard.
8. Electrical consumption in Porkkala continues to be great, closely approaching the maximum which can be supplied via the existing lines. No conclusion has yet been reached as to whether or not the supply lines can be reinforced in order to obtain increased power, but a decision is expected shortly. The electrical consumption in September was 610,000 kilowatt hours. Heretofore it was thought that the Soviets had no industry in Porkkala; now, however, on a clear day, a building with a tall smokestack can be seen somewhere in the western portion of Porkkala. Adjacent to this building are a cluster of new-appearing buildings.

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